

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BERN 04866 031218Z

42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 /199 W

----- 013107

R 031124Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8469

INFO AMCONSUL ZURICH

UNCLAS BERN 4866

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EFIN, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS DECEMBER 2 REFERENDUM ON ANTI-INFLATIONARY DECREES

REF: BERN 4843

1. WITH A SMALLER THAN EXPECTED TURNOUT (THIRTY PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS), ALL FOUR ANTI-INFLATIONARY DECREES WERE APPROVED DECEMBER 2 BY SURPRISINGLY LARGE MAJORITIES. FOLLOWING ARE PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL VOTE IN FAVOR OF DECREES: PRICE/WAGE/PROFIT--59.8 PERCENT; CREDIT--65.1 PERCENT; AMORTIZATION--68.1 PERCENT; AND CONSTRUCTION--70.4 PERCENT. ONLY TWO CANTONS (VALAIS AND GRISONS) REJECTED ALL FOUR DECREES, WHILE SCHWYZ VOTED AGAINST CREDIT DECREE AND HALF-CANTON OBWALDEN TURNED DOWN CREDIT AND AMORTIZATION DECREES.

2. COMMENT: LOW VOTER TURNOUT MAY BE EXPLAINED IN PART BY SUNDAY DRIVING BAN. NEVERTHELESS, MAJORITY OF POPULATION APPEARS REMARKABLY APATHETIC ABOUT BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUE OF INFLATION CONTROL. GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, HAS CONTINUED AUTHORITY FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS TO TRY TO SLOW DOMESTIC INFLATION.

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PAGE 02 BERN 04866 031218Z

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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